

BOLIVIA, CHILE & PERU

CURRENT SITUATION

1 APPROX. 150 VENEZUELAN LEFT PUNO FOR CHILE VIA DESAGUADERO IN A SINGLE DAY

on 22 February, a decrease of more than 50 percent from the week prior, according to R4V partners conducting border monitoring.

2 186 VENEZUELAN WERE IN TACNA WAITING TO CROSS TO CHILE ON 24 FEBRUARY

according to a one-day monitoring exercise by an R4V partner.

3 200 TO 300 VENEZUELAN WERE IN TRANSIT DAILY FROM PISIGA TO CHILE

in the latter half of February, according to R4V partners' monitoring missions from 16-17 February.

4 APPROX. 164 VENEZUELAN ARRIVED EVERY DAY AT THE COLCHANE TRANSITORY CENTRE

from 21-27 February (total entries that week 1,149) according to R4V partners' monitoring.



R4V RESPONSE

BOLIVIA (PISIGA)

- Shelter
- Food
- WASH
- Protection

CHILE (COLCHANE)

- Shelter
- Food
- WASH
- Protection
- NFIs

PERU (PUNO)

- Shelter
- Food
- Health

HAZARDS / RISKS

- Extreme weather
- Organized crime
- Human trafficking and smuggling
- High altitude
- Family separation
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

All figures shared in this document are estimates obtained from field observations and key informants of cross-border movements (non-official figures).



SPECIAL SITUATION REPORT

BOLIVIA, CHILE & PERU

CURRENT SITUATION

In update to the context reported in the R4V [Special Situation Report on Bolivia, Chile and Peru](#) published on 18 February, following confusion around the 12 February implementation of the new measures contained in the Chilean Migration Law and anti-migration protests, the Government of Chile declared a “[state of exception](#)” and deployed the military to four provinces in the north of the country beginning on 16 February to support the police in the response to irregular migration and prevent the entry of refugees and migrants through irregular border crossings. A reported [672 Chilean military and 100 police officials](#) established periodic checkpoints along the borders with both Bolivia and Peru, with vehicles regularly patrolling in between those points, so as to identify, intercept, detain and return refugees and migrants attempting to cross irregularly. The new President of Chile, inaugurated on 11 March, [announced](#) that he would extend the “state of exception” and also seek regional dialogue with other countries receiving refugees and migrants from Venezuela to potentially establish a “quota system” for entries.

According to R4V Partners, despite the application of the procedures known as “redirection” under the new Chilean Migration Law, and the difficult weather and terrain along these routes, refugees and migrants continue to arrive and attempt to enter Chile irregularly from Bolivia and Peru, many in dire economic circumstances with little capacity to meet their basic needs. Inter-agency monitoring missions carried out by multiple R4V partners during the latter half of February observed between 200 to 300 refugees and migrants crossing Bolivia at Pisiga daily en route to enter Chile, the vast majority Venezuelans, comprised of approximately 65 per cent women and 10 per cent children under the age of 10. On 16 February, a group of nearly [200 people](#) were stopped from entering into Colchane from Bolivia, according

to the Chilean National Police (Carabineros). Also according to R4V partners, at the border between Bolivia and Chile between 21-27 February, 1,149 refugees and migrants entered the Colchane Transitory Centre in Chile (25 per cent children and adolescents) while 1,131 refugees and migrants left the centre for destinations further south in Chile.

Meanwhile in Peru, according to R4V partners’ monitoring exercises and observations at bus terminals and in the border area around Tacna, a gradual increase of refugees and migrants from Venezuela was noted: the observed total population per day grew from 56 people (21 Feb), to 136 (22 Feb), 130 (23 Feb) and then 186 (24 Feb), hinting at the beginning of a situation of stagnation of refugees and migrants facing difficulties for onward travel to Chile. Many of the Venezuelans surveyed by R4V partners in Peru had already attempted to cross to Chile and were detained and returned by the authorities, some up to three times previously, although the vast majority expressed the intention to continue to Chile once again, including via Puno to cross to Desaguadero in Bolivia, as an alternative to crossing the border in Tacna. For example, on 22 February, the police in Peru intercepted [80 persons](#) (including pregnant women) trying to enter Chile from Tacna in Peru. An R4V partner’s border monitoring exercise in Puno on 22 February registered 156 Venezuelans who attempted to leave Peru for Chile in a single day, representing a decrease of more than 50 per cent from the daily departure numbers recorded the previous week.

NEEDS

An R4V partner in Chile conducted a rapid survey (14-18 February) to identify the principal needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving in the north, with a particular focus on the Transitory Centre and areas around Colchane. Among the main findings, the survey observed that 95 per cent of arriving refugees and migrants were Venezuelan, and that almost 1 in 3 were children. The primary needs identified by the refugees and migrants surveyed were safe transportation to their final destinations, food, support for accessing documentation, and shelter.

The main needs identified for refugees and migrants in transit in Bolivia and Peru, and upon arrival in Chile, reflect the priorities outlined in the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan ([RMRP](#) 2022), but with increasing attention on the following:

- **Protection:** The challenging geographical context and high level of vulnerability of Venezuelans transiting from Bolivia and Peru to Chile – including pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities – place refugees and migrants at high risk for various severe protection concerns along the routes, including trafficking in persons and gender-based violence. Improved access to information on migratory requirements and asylum procedures is recognized as an important need. There is a need to address denials of access to territory for Venezuelans attempting to seek asylum. Increased xenophobic attitudes among host communities also present risks of violence.
- **Health:** Improved health assistance is required to meet the needs of refugees and migrants, including vulnerable groups such as pregnant and lactating women, children and adolescents who are facing considerable risks to their physical and mental health. Support to health centres with medicines, equipment and other essential supplies remains a priority, to treat conditions such as respiratory infections, dehydration and malnutrition, as well as to meet COVID-19 protocols.

OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

In **Bolivia**, to improve protection for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, R4V partners are cooperating and coordinating with local, departmental and national authorities, disseminating information to Venezuelans. Partners are ensuring regular monitoring of the situation, strengthening a temporary shelter in Pisiga to increase its reception capacity, distributing potable water and food and

- **Shelter:** Reinforce solutions and improve standards of temporary emergency accommodation to cater to potential increasing populations in transit or a build-up of those unable to transit onwards. For example, Peru's capacity to provide shelter along its borders with Chile and Bolivia in case of increasing flows or a build-up of those unable to transit on is very limited, and infrastructure needs to be improved in Bolivia to meet the shelter needs of people in transit.
- **WASH:** Capacities in WASH need to be expanded, in particular considering that refugees and migrants are often walking long distances between cities and borders in the midst of a desert landscape, with needs for potable water, bathroom and shower facilities, and a lack of personal hygiene items.
- **Food Security and Nutrition:** Access to food has been identified as one of the most urgent needs for refugees, migrants and affected host communities in Bolivia, Chile and Peru, with particular risks of malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and young children.
- **Humanitarian Transportation:** Safe transportation is needed for refugees and migrants in transit to mitigate protection risks and other challenges along the routes. Challenges include opposition from local transportation trade unions in Chile.

Particularly given the recent rise in xenophobia and stigma related to refugees and migrants from Venezuela, with associated protests and violent actions as detailed in the previous [R4V Special Situation Report](#), it is of the utmost importance that host communities are considered and included throughout all interventions.

supporting a health center in Pisiga, including through the provision of supplies to enhance biosafety measures and facilitate COVID-19 testing.

In **Chile**, an inter-agency R4V mission (21-27 February) was conducted to Tarapacá, Arica and Parinacota to collect information on the situation of refugees and migrants, in particular with regard

to the needs of children and adolescents, and the impact of arrivals on local host communities. Based on the assessments, R4V partners continue to provide temporary accommodations for refugees and migrants in situations of homelessness in Iquique and Colchane, and are delivering life-saving information on available protection services to refugees and migrants. Partners also delivered food, WASH (including drinking water) and non-food items (such as blankets) to vulnerable persons around the Transitory Centre in Colchane.

In **Peru**, R4V partners are working together with key actors at the southern border to ensure continuous monitoring of the situation of refugees and migrants. As of 25 February, R4V partners were providing accommodation to families in transit for up to seven days, and meals to up to 40 people per day, as well as 250 food ration kits to be distributed two times a week, with 1,000 hygiene kits arriving for distribution this week. In case of emergency, R4V partners can refer refugees and migrants for health care assistance through the Hipólito Unanue Regional Hospital.

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